



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

PHOENIX - Dennis K. Burke, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, has announced the names of several leaders who will fill key positions within the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Ann Scheel has been named as First Assistant U.S. Attorney. This position is the number two position in the U.S. Attorney's Office and is responsible for overseeing the operation of the office on a day-to-day basis. Ms. Scheel has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office for over 20 years and has worked in the Civil Section, General Criminal, OCDETF, White Collar, Appeals and Violent Crime Sections. Additionally, she previously supervised the violent crime section and Victim/Witness unit. She received her law degree from the University of Arizona.

Rachel Hernandez will fill a new position as Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney. This position has responsibility over all special programs including the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, Weed and Seed Program, Public Information and Automated Litigation Support. The Executive Assistant will also be primarily responsible for personnel issues and DOJ reporting requirements as well as special projects, among other responsibilities. Ms. Hernandez has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office for over nine years and has been a supervisor of, and prosecuted cases in, the Immigration and Firearms Sections as well as the White Collar/Public Corruption Section. Additionally, she has worked in the Narcotics/OCDETF Section. She completed law school at University of California, Hastings, San Francisco, Calif.

John Lopez will replace Ms. Hernandez as Deputy Criminal Chief of the White Collar Section. Mr. Lopez has most recently served as Appellate Deputy Chief and has also served as Computer Crimes and Intellectual Property Coordinator. He has been with the U.S. Attorney's Office for seven years and has worked in the areas of Immigration, Narcotics/OCDETF, White Collar and Appeals. Mr. Lopez also served a six-month tour with the Department of Justice Iraq Regime Crimes Liaison Office in Baghdad and northern Iraq. He graduated from ASU Law School.

Randall Howe will assume leadership of the Phoenix Appellate Division. Mr. Howe has been with the Appellate Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office for one year. Prior to that, he served for 19 years as an Assistant Attorney General and Chief Counsel of the Criminal Appeals Section of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. Mr. Howe also graduated from ASU Law School.

Additional announcements are expected in the coming weeks.

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